



**USAID | MACEDONIA**  
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Press office: +389 (0)2 310 2314

Cell phone: +389 (0)70 367 547

Email: [bvelickovska@usaid.gov](mailto:bvelickovska@usaid.gov)

## PRESS RELEASE

### **USAID Opens 21st Century Technology Lab in Gazi Baba**

To make technical education relevant and interest more students in technical careers, the American people, through the USAID Primary Education Project, are opening 21st Century Technology Labs in selected primary schools in Macedonia. The project renovates existing technology classrooms, providing new furniture, robotics and computer control equipment and other new materials.

Mayor Toni Trajkovski of Gazi Baba joined representatives of USAID, PEP, and the school community to celebrate the opening of the lab at Naum Naumovski Borce Primary School, which is one of forty schools to gain a 21<sup>st</sup> Century Lab.

"One of the main problems facing young people is the mismatch of skills and knowledge they gain in school with the requirements of the labor market. Many of the skills and knowledge that employers emphasize as most important in modern business need to be developed at an early age. We hope that these 21st Century Technology Labs will provide students with the skills and knowledge needed for Macedonia's future", said Keith Prenton, Director of USAID's Primary Education Project.

#### **NOTE TO EDITORS:**

The USAID Primary Education Project (PEP) works with all public primary schools in Macedonia. The project seeks to improve the quality of instruction and increase employment skills of students. The overall goal of the USAID Education Program is to strengthen education in Macedonia and to support decentralization efforts, as Macedonia seeks entrance to the European Union.

The American people, through USAID, have invested nearly \$500 million in Macedonia since 1993. USAID is implementing projects that create jobs, reduce corruption, and prepare Macedonian students for the workforce. These initiatives improve the quality of life and support Macedonia's transition to a stable and prosperous democracy. USAID provides economic and humanitarian assistance in more than 100 countries. For more information please visit <http://macedonia.usaid.gov>.